



CITIZENS ON WATCH



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Criminal Damage Spree/Vehicles

On March 14th, there were approximately 10 rear windows broken out of vehicles in the neighborhoods of Palm Valley and the area of Sarival and Yuma Rd. It was reported that rocks were used in all of these incidents. Officers saturated the area but no suspects were located. Currently this is under investigation by Goodyear Detectives.

Criminal Damage Spree/Garage Doors

Four juvenile subjects were arrested and charges were submitted for criminal damage to multiple garage doors in the Wildflower, Centerra and Estrella Vista neighborhoods on March 11th. The subject's were using their bodies to dent in the garage doors. Immediately upon incident the subjects were not located but upon further follow up by officers, these subjects made admissions to the incidents.

Bank Robbery

On March 6th at around 1:56 PM, The Canyon State Credit Union located at 1270 N. Dysart Rd was robbed by a male subject. He received an undisclosed amount of money after handing the teller a demanding letter. The male subject then fled on foot toward Lowe's where he was last observed. Goodyear Police attempted to locate as well as Goodyear K-9 Officers and their partners conducting an area track. The FBI and task force were also called out. The subject was not located and is still outstanding.

Burglary to City Property

At an unknown time on or around March 1st, the water plant located at 16699 S. Rainbow Valley Rd had its fencing cut, unlawful entry was made and various parts to equipment stolen as well as fuel from the vehicles.

House Fire

On March 14th in the area of 133rd Ave and Palm Valley Blvd, GYPD assisted the GYFD with closing roads down for a small house fire. A neighbor safely assisted with removing the homeowner prior to Police and Fire arrival. The fire was started by hot coals from a BBQ left on the side of the house. No adjoining structures were damaged and no evacuations were necessary.

Sky Kids

Building self esteem and confidence for special needs kids through flight. The event will be April 12th. Please check the link below for further information, details and registration.

<http://skykidsaz.org/pix2013second.html>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

SKY KIDS	APRIL 12
ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN RANCH MUSIC FESTIVAL	MARCH 29

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Tax Time Scams You Should Avoid

Let's face it: most people dislike tax season. It can be stressful, confusing and financially painful. There are some people, though, who enjoy it: scam artists. For these unscrupulous characters, tax season brings with it limitless opportunities to prey on the innocent and rob them of their hard-earned money.

Scam artists are experienced in a variety of schemes that earn them millions of dollars every year. They take advantage of the trusting nature of people who are too baffled by the tax code to realize when they are being swindled.

If you know what to look for -- simple signs that betray the scam artist's deception -- you can survive tax season unscathed.

Scammers play on fears, vulnerabilities

Phishing and identity theft are the most common tax scams, said Kenneth Price, a financial planner with Austin Asset Management Co. (austinasset.com) in Austin, Texas.

Phishing can take many forms, but typically it's done through phony emails. Scam artists adopt false identities as a way to extract personal information from their targets or to plant destructive software into a person's computer.

They often pretend to be IRS agents, informing their targets of problems with their returns or refunds and telling them that the only solution is to send their Social Security numbers or bank account information. Or the email will include a link that, when opened, installs into the victim's computer spyware or malware that can then mine all their files and personal data.

Unfortunately, this scam is often successful because people are taught to be scared of the IRS, said Kelly Phillips Erb, a Philadelphia-based tax attorney and founder of the blog taxgirl.com.

"Any time someone gets something that looks official, and it's from the IRS, they jump on it," Erb said. "If you get something from the IRS that says your payment was rejected -- which was a scam making the rounds a few months ago -- you'll be quick to send any information asked for because you don't want to get in trouble. That's the gut reaction."

This scam is easy to spot, however, because the IRS never contacts people via email, Erb said. Scammers will sometimes send emails that appear to come from legitimate tax preparers.

More RED flags to watch for

Another red flag is a tax preparation fee based on a percentage of the return instead of a flat fee. "The IRS doesn't prohibit it, though I think they should," Erb said. "Statistically, those tend to be fraudulent returns, because there is a financial incentive for the preparer to induce you to claim funds you're not entitled to."

Taxpayers also need to be wary of ghost preparers, unlicensed companies or websites whose only goal is to take advantage of their so-called clients, said Kerry Freeman, owner of Freeman Income Tax Service in Anthem, Arizona.

Freeman insists that people should use only a tax service that is well-known, established or registered with the IRS. "I know one person who had a \$10,000 refund and paid \$2,000 in fees to a fake tax preparer, who then disappeared with all the money," Freeman said.

Some tax-related scams don't have anything to do with theft, but everything to do with politics, Erb said.

Several years ago during a contentious election cycle in the South, people found fliers in their mailboxes informing them that their tax records were linked to the voting rolls, Erb said. If they failed to file a tax return in the past or owed the government money, the flier warned, they should not register to vote, because that was the only way the government would be able to track them down.

It was an attempt to suppress voter registration, and proof that fear of the IRS is a con artist's best friend, Erb said. "This time of year feeds on people's general insecurities and fears and mistrust of the government," she said.

If you suspect that you are the victim of a scam, contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490. Suspicious emails should be forwarded to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov.

